

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02

CU-02 AGR-05 DOTE-00 HEW-02 HUD-01 INT-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01

AID-05 CEQ-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05

OES-03 SS-15 /128 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6021

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV

SUBJECT: HABITAT CONFERENCE-INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION

1. IN LUNCH CONVERSATION FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF HABITAT INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP MEETING, PENALOSA TOLD SCHIFF AND MCNEAL (HEAD OF CANADIAN DEL) OF HIS IDEAS FOR HANDLING INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION IN HABITAT CONFERENCE. HE RELATED THAT HE HAD BEEN UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM ENTRENCHED INTERESTS IN UN BUREAUCRACY WHEN PRODUCING PAPER FOR THIS MEETING. IN ANTICIPATION THAT THESE KINDS OF PRESSURES WOULD BE EVEN GREATER IF NEXT PREP COM WERE ASKED TO DECIDE ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, HE PROPOSES TO AVOID DECISION BY PREP COM. INSTEAD HE WILL PREPARE OPTIONS PAPER WHICH HE WILL ASK PREP COM TO REFINED AND THEN PUT DECISION TO VANCOUVER CONFERENCE. ANOTHER REASON FOR DOING THIS, HE SAID, WAS THAT MOST OFFICIALS COMING TO HABITAT PREP COM MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH PROFESSIONALS, DO NOT COME FROM THE MINISTERIES MOST

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CONCERNED WITH THE HELP THAT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM AN

EFFECTIVE UN ORGANIZATION.

2. IN ADDITION, HE STATED HIS BASIC CONCERN WAS TO INSURE THAT THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CONCEPT DID NOT DIE AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE. HE BELIEVES THAT A WAY OF SUSTAINING INTEREST AMONG POLITICAL LEADERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS TO HAVE A VERY SMALL GROUP IN THE UN UNDER SOMEONE WITH UNDERSECRETARY RANK WHO WOULD HAVE EASY ACCESS TO TOP LEVELS OF LDC GOVERNMENTS. PARENTHETICALLY, HE REITERATED THAT HE HAS NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN REMAINING IN THE UN SYSTEM HIMSELF BUT HE WILL RETURN TO COLOMBIA AFTER THE CONFERENCE. THIS IS TO UNDERLINE THAT HE IS NOT GRINDING ANY PERSONAL AXES.

3. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS HE WILL WISH TO DISCUSS IN HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO WASHINGTON IS OUR OWN VIEWS ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND RELATED TO THIS THE IDEA DESCRIBED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH. HE IS GOING TO BE VISITING SOME KEY EUROPEAN CAPITALS BETWEEN NOW AND MID-OCTOBER TO GET SOME FIRST-HAND IMPRESSIONS OF GOVERNMENT THINKING ON INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION. DALE

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Message Attributes

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